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Message Text

SECRET

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51
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
---------- 065742
P 301110 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9991

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0549

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP MARR PK LY
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR ON USG
POSITION RE HLR 22

1. EVENING OF APRIL 26, AT PARTY HE WAS HOSTING, PAK AMBASSADOR RAUF KHAN DREW ME ASIDE SEVERAL TIMES. HE ASKED IF IT WAS TRUE THAT USG WAS RECOGNIZING LIBYAN CLAIM TO CONTROL AIRSPACE OFF COAST TO THE EXTENT OF "100 MILES". I ASKED WHERE HE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE GOT SUCH AN IDEA AS IT WAS OBVIOUSLY UNTRUE. TWICE RAUF KHAN SAID THAT HE RAISED THE QUESTION ONLY BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT HIS " PEOPLE" WERE TELLING HIM " SOME LIBYANS" WERE SAYING. HE HINTED THE LIBYANS WERE LARAF OFFICERS WITH WHOM THE PAK AIR FORCE WORKS. ONLY BASIS FOR MISAPPREHEN-SION HE COULD CITE WAS THAT THESE LIBYANS INTERPRETING OUR DIPLOMATIC NOTICE OF APRIL 17 AS SOME FORM OF RECOGNITION OF LARG CLAIMS. I SAID THIS ABSOLUTE NONSENSE AND THAT ONLY REASON WE GAVE NOTICE IN THAT CASE WAS THAT LARAF HAD FIRED ON OUR PLANE MARCH 21. FACT WAS WE HAD REPEATEDLY INFORMED LARG SINCE LAST NOVEMBER THAT THEIR HLR 22 RESTRICTED ZONE WAS ILLEGAL AND WOULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED BY US. RAUF KHAN SEEMED REASONABLY SATISFIED, BUT HEAS A DECEPTIVE CHARACTER AND I COULD NOT BE SURE THAT I HAD PERSUADED HIM.

2. APRIL 28 I DECIDED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF RAUF KHAN' S
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MISAPPREHENSION OF THE TRUE USG POSITON WAS SUFFICIENTLY

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IMPORTANT, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THAT I SHOULD ASK TO CALL ON HIM AT HIS OFFICE AND MAKE SURE HE WAS ENTERTAINING NO DELUSIONS. ACCORDINGLY, I CALLED AND MADE AN APPOINTMENT FOR APRIL 29. DURING THAT APPOINTMENT I TOLD RAUF KHAN THAT I WAS SURPRISED AT HIS QUESTION TO ME SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER. I THEN LED HIM THROUGH THE CHRONOLOGY OF OUR NOTICE OF AND DEMARCHES REGARDING HLR 22. I LEFT WITH HIM A COPY OF THE LIBYAN NOTICE, A ONE- PAGE SUMMARY OF OUR ORAL DEMARCHES OF NOVEMBER 27 AND FEBRUARY 21 (WHICH WE HAD ALSO GIVEN TO THE LARG), OUR NOTE OF MARCH 21, AND OUR NOTE OF APRIL 10. RAUF KHAN WAS RATHER OVERWHELMED WITH THE EVIDENCE I PRESENTED AND PROFESSED TO HAVE BEEN PERSUADED FROM THE START THAT, OF COURSE, THE USG NEVER RECOGNIZED ANY LARG CLAIMS BEYOND 12 NM. I SAID THAT WAS GOOD AND THAT HE SHOULD MAKE NO MISTAKE THAT OUR FLIGHTS OUTSIDE THAT LIMIT WOULD CONTINUE. MOST UNCHARACTERISTICALLY OF HIM, RAUF KHAN ACTUALLY VOLUNTEERED SOME INFORMATION THEN HIMSELF. HE SAID THAT PAKISTANI PILOTS HERE HAVE STRICT ORDERS NOT TO FLY ARMED MISSIONS OUTSIDE OF LIBYAN TERRITORIAL AREAS. I SAID I THOUGHT THAT WAS WISE.

3. COMMENT: NOTHING I SAID OR IMPLIED COULD POSSIBLY BE CONSTRUED AS AN INDIRECT NOTICE THAT OUR FLIGHTS WOULD CONTINUE ON ANY PARTICULAR DATE, DATES, OR FREQUENCY - NOR DID RAUF KHAN GIVE ANY INDICATION THAT HE INTERPRETED MY REMARKS AS ANY SUCH INDICATION.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO ISLAMABAD.
JOSIF

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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